

# **Interoperability Montana**

## **Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan**

**2007**



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER  
LT. GOVERNOR

November 26, 2007

Mr. Michael Roskind, Acting Director  
Office of Emergency Communications  
U.S Dept. of Homeland Security  
1110 North Glebe – Ninth Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Acting Director Roskind:

It gives me great pleasure to commend the leadership of the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project for developing a comprehensive Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP).

Montana is reaching its communications interoperability goals via a unique governance approach. All 56 Montana counties and 7 tribal nations in the state are represented in regional consortia that are working to advance local, state, tribal and federal public safety communications needs. The design outlined in the SCIP reflects Montana's grassroots, bottom-up approach.

You may be interested in knowing that for the 2007-2008 biennium, the State of Montana Legislature approved \$8.5 million to support the IM Project. And, the legislature gave the IM Project Directors the utmost authority and flexibility to manage this budget. The State of Montana is committed to seeing the IM Project become a success to meet the growing needs of first responders across the state. And, we look forward to continuing the partnerships already established to further the vision of establishing a connected, voice and data public safety communications system throughout the state.

I applaud the commitment and hard work by those involved with the IM Project and those who wrote this plan. Please let me know if the State of Montana can assist in helping to meet state and national interoperability goals.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
Governor



STATE OF MONTANA  
Department of Administration  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION



Brian Schweitzer  
Governor

November 26, 2007

Mr. Michael Roskind, Acting Director  
Office of Emergency Communications  
U.S Dept. of Homeland Security  
1110 North Glebe – Ninth Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Acting Director Roskind:

It is with great pleasure that I give my support to Montana's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The State of Montana, through the Department of Administration, Information Technology Services Division, is committed to seeing the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project continue to make great strides in improving public safety radio and mobile data communications in Montana.

Montana and the nation are challenged to prepare for the impacts of a dramatically changing communications environment. Through the IM Project, advanced communications technologies are being implemented so that Montana is not only preparing for the future, but also making significant improvements to meet Montana's four-fold mission for public safety communications:

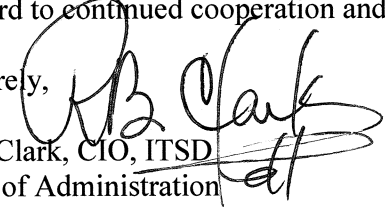
1. Local, such as a local ambulance responding to an emergency;
2. State, such as dealing with wild fires;
3. National, such as drug interdiction; and
4. International, such as issues with the Canadian border and illegal immigration.

The IM Project is taking a leadership role with regard to planning for public safety communications systems used by local, state, tribal and federal entities in Montana. Implementing standards and interoperable systems are objectives that are being met, as well as integrating radio, 9-1-1, and GIS technologies for improved emergency response for the public.

To that end, the State, through the collaborative efforts of the IM consortia, Tribal Governments, State and Federal agencies has undertaken coordinated projects to deploy integrated solutions to improve public safety in Montana. The State of Montana looks forward to continuing partnerships to expand the vision of establishing a connected, voice and data public safety communications system throughout the state. This vision is reflected in the blueprint outlined in the SCIP.

Enhanced interoperable communications is a key priority for the State of Montana, and we eagerly look forward to continued cooperation and participation to make this priority become a reality.

Sincerely,

  
Dick Clark, CIO, ITSD  
Dept. of Administration  
State of Montana



Lewis & Clark County  
**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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Sheriff Cheryl A. Liedle  
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November 26, 2007

Mr. Michael Roskind, Acting Director  
Office of Emergency Communications  
U.S Dept. of Homeland Security  
1110 North Glebe – Ninth Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Acting Director Roskind:

I am pleased to endorse Montana's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The Interoperability Montana (IM) Project is made up of eight regional consortia and the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) consortium, which collectively represent all 56 Montana counties and 7 tribal nations in the state. Project directors of these consortia—along with three State of Montana agencies—make up the Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) board, which I chair.

We are particularly proud of the accomplishment of the IM Project to date, and believe that the SCIP provides an accurate description of how the state's interoperable public safety communications needs are being addressed through federal partnerships, local and tribal collaboration, and state support. Unlike most states, Montana's system is being directed by its users: public safety first responders. This grassroots approach accounts for much of Montana's success.

Thank you for your agency's continued leadership and commitment to public safety and to the goal of interoperability. Please contact me in the event you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheryl A. Liedle".

Sheriff Cheryl Liedle  
Lewis and Clark County